

Objectives of Sustainable Development

There are four objectives of sustainable development. *These include :*

- social progress and equality
 - environmental protection
 - conservation of natural resources
 - stable economic growth
- Every person has the right to a healthy, clean and safe environment. This can be achieved by reducing pollution, poverty, poor housing and unemployment. No one, in this age, or in the future should be treated unfairly. Global environmental threats such as climate change and poor air quality must be reduced to protect human and environmental health.
 - The use of non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels should not be stopped overnight, but they must be used efficiently and the development of alternatives should be encouraged to help phase them out.
 - Everybody has the right to a good standard of living, with better job opportunities. Economic prosperity is required if a country needs to prosper and businesses must therefore, offer a high standard of products that consumers throughout the world want, at the prices they are prepared to pay. For this, a workforce equipped with suitable skills and education within a framework is required to support them.

International Initiatives Towards Sustainable Development

Stockholm Conference, 1972

- Also known as **United Nations Conference** on the Human Environment was held at Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. It considered the need for a common outlook and principles to inspire and guide the people of the world for the preservation and enhancement of human environment. This conference is widely recognised as the beginning of modern political and public awareness of global environmental problems.
- The meeting agreed upon a declaration containing 26 principles concerning the environment and development. *Some of these are as follows:*
 - Natural resources must be safeguarded.
 - The Earth's capacity to produce renewable resources must be maintained.
 - Wildlife must be safeguarded.
 - Non-renewable resources must be shared and not exhausted.
 - Pollution must not exceed the environment's capacity to clean itself.
 - Developing countries need assistance to improve the environment.

- Science
- environment
- Environment

- The conference of the United Nations provided a framework for environmental cooperation between countries and provided a platform for

The Brundtland Commission

- To rally the world's attention to development issues, the Brundtland Commission (WCED) was set up in 1987. Its mandate was to unite countries and people together to address the challenges of sustainable development.
- The Brundtland Commission's report, 'Our Common Future', known as the 'Brundtland Report', was published in 1987.

Earth Summit, 1992

- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. It was the first world conference of 178 governments and 118 states. The summit resulted in the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Agenda 21 action plan, and the Forest Principles for sustainable forest management.
- The summit also resulted in the adoption of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), which led to the Kyoto Protocol.
- The summit also resulted in the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which led to the Nagoya Protocol.

Agenda 21

- Agenda 21 is a comprehensive action plan for sustainable development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. It is a blueprint for global, national, and local action to address the challenges of sustainable development. It covers a wide range of issues, including poverty, environment, and social development.

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- Science and technology must be used to improve the environment.
- Environmental education is essential.

- The conference also approved establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide continued leadership and co-ordination of environmental action. UNEP also helps developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

The Brundtland Commission, 1983

- To rally countries to work and pursue sustainable development together, the UN decided to establish the Brundtland Commission in 1983. Also known as the **World Commission on Environment and Development** (WCED), the Brundtland Commission's mission was to unite countries to pursue sustainable development together.
- The Brundtland Commission officially dissolved in December 1987 after releasing **Our Common Future**, also known as the **Brundtland Report**, in **October, 1987**, a document which coined and defined the meaning of the term *sustainable development*.

Earth Summit, 1992

- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the **Rio Summit** or **Earth Summit** was a major United Nations Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In this conference, about 178 governments participated, including the heads of 118 states.

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21.
- Forest principles to emphasise national sovereignty over forests and intolerance towards any kind of foreign encroachment.

Following legally binding agreements were also opened for signature:

- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Agenda 21

- Agenda 21 is a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development. It is an action Agenda for the UN, other multilateral organisations and individual governments around the world that can be executed at local, national and global levels. The '21' in Agenda 21 refers to the 21st century. It has been affirmed and modified at subsequent UN conferences.

Sustainable Development has the opportunity to learn the values, for a sustainable future nation.

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Rio+20, 2012

- In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was also held in Rio and is also commonly called **Rio+20** or **Rio Earth Summit, 2012**. Earth Summit, 2012 was the Third International Conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community.
- The primary result of the conference was the non-binding document, **The Future We Want**. In it, the heads of state of the 192 governments in attendance renewed their political commitment to sustainable development and declared their commitment to the promotion of a sustainable future. The document largely reaffirms previous action plans like Agenda 21.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- On 25th September, 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved by 2030. *These goals are as follows:*
 - **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
 - **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
 - **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
 - **Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life long learning opportunities for all.
 - **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 - **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 - **Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
 - **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
 - **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
 - **Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
 - **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 - **Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 - **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
 - **Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.